

REMARKS

Applicant concurrently files herewith an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter, and corresponding excess claim fee, for one (1) excess claim.

Claims 1-21 are all of the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-13 have been merely editorially amended and have not been substantively amended to more particularly define the claimed invention. Claims 14-21 have been added to provide more varied protection for the claimed invention and to claim additional features of the claimed invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohhashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,556,815; hereinafter “Ohhashi”). Claims 3-6, 9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohhashi.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention (e.g., as defined by exemplary claim 1) is directed to a device in a nozzle for monitoring and/or regulating of gas or liquid occurring in one or more ducts in the nozzle, or mixtures of one or more gases and/or one or more liquids in a spray gun for a painting plant.

The device includes a pressure indicator mounted in a proximity of an end of the one or more ducts in a channel which is intended for the gas or liquid or mixture which is to be monitored and/or regulated, the pressure indicator being connected to an electronic circuit for generating a signal

corresponding to the pressure prevailing in the duct, wherein the electronic circuit is connected to a circuit for regulating one or more valves for adjusting the measured pressure to a desired value (e.g., see Application at page 3, line 20 through page 4, line 25). Accordingly, the device of the claimed invention can easily monitor, regulate and control the output of a nozzle (e.g., see Application at page 2, lines 4-15).

II. THE INDEFINITESS REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the claims are “generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice” (see Office Action dated November 27, 2006 at page 3).

Applicant has reviewed all of claims 1-13 and has editorially amended each of the claims as provided in the above claim amendments. Applicant has addressed each of the specific issues raised by the Examiner (i.e., claims 1, 2 and 5) and has reviewed the complete language of claims 1-13 to address any claim language issues not addressed by the Examiner.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

III. THE PRIOR ART REFERENCE

The Examiner alleges that Ohhashi teaches the claimed invention of claims 1 and 3. Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that the claimed invention of claims 3-6, 9 and 11-13 would have been obvious in view of Ohhashi. Applicant submits, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by Ohhashi.

That is, Ohhashi does not teach or suggest “*a pressure indicator mounted in a proximity of an end of said one or more ducts in a channel which is intended for the gas or liquid or mixture which is to be monitored and/or regulated, the pressure indicator being connected to an electronic circuit for*

generating a signal corresponding to the pressure prevailing in the duct", as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 clearly recites that a pressure indicator is mounted in the proximity at the end of a duct in the channel which is intended for the gas or liquid or mixture which is to be monitored or/and regulated and that the pressure indicator is connected to an electronic circuit for generating a signal corresponding to the pressure prevailing in the duct and that the electronic circuit is connected to a circuit for regulating one or more valves for adjusting the measured pressure to a desired value.

Ohhashi does not teach or suggest this feature of the claimed invention. Indeed, Ohhashi merely teaches that a pressure sensor is provided in a flow path of fluid located midway between a valve section and a nozzle ejection port in a fluid ejection gun. When foreign matter in the fluid blocks the nozzle in Ohhashi and, hence, the ejection from the nozzle becomes abnormal, a fluid variation produced in the flow path between the valve section and the nozzle ejection port is detected in the form of an electric signal by a piezo-electric transducer, and an electric signal is issued to close the valve.

However, in Ohhashi, the pressure sensor is not provided in a proximity of an end of the one or more ducts in a channel which is intended for the gas or liquid or mixture which is to be monitored and/or regulated.

Therefore, Applicant submits that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught or suggested (nor made obvious) by Ohhashi. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 14-21 have been added to claim additional features of the invention and to provide more varied protection for the claimed invention. These claims are independently patentable because of the novel and nonobvious features recited therein.

Applicant submits that new claims 14-21 are patentable over the cited prior art references at

least for analogous reasons to those set forth above with respect to claims 1-13.

V. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

With respect to the Examiner's objection, Applicant submits that each of the claimed features is clearly illustrated in the Drawings. Therefore, Applicant submits that it is not necessary to amend the drawings at this time.

Specifically, Figure 9 of the Application clearly illustrates the circuit for regulating one more valves (e.g., 19) connected to the electronic circuit (e.g., see Application at page 4, lines 14-18). Additionally, the IR or Blue Tooth is a part of the communication circuit (e.g., 23; see page 4, lines 21-25).

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the battery section is a part of the electronic circuit (e.g., 18), which is clearly illustrated in Figure 9.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-21, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Scott M. Tulino, Esq.
Registration No. 48,317

Sean M. McGinn, Esq.
Registration No. 34,386

**MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW GROUP, PLLC**
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254